

PATENT
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 83336/640

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Cole et al. Customer No.: 66880
Serial No.: 09/904,061 Examiner: Corbett B. Coburn
Filed: July 12, 2001 Group Art Unit: 3714
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR REDUCING
INTERRUPTIONS IN GAME PLAY CAUSED BY JACKPOTS IN
EXCESS OF VARIOUS THRESHOLD AMOUNTS

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION AFTER APPEAL DECISION UNDER 37
CFR 1.198, 37 CFR 1.114 AND MPEP 706.07(h), PARAGRAPH XI**

Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the Appeal Decision of May 7, 2008, and is timely filed within the two month period set forth by MPEP 706.07(h), paragraph XI, which reads in relevant part:

Generally, the time period for filing a notice of appeal to the Federal Circuit or for commencing a civil action is within two months of the Board's decision. See 37 CFR 1.304 and MPEP § 1216. Thus, an RCE filed within this two month time period and before the filing of a notice of appeal to the Federal Circuit or the commencement of a civil action would be timely filed.

Applicants note that the Examiner prematurely filed a Notice of Abandonment of June 20, 2008. The Applicants are concurrently filing a Petition to Withdraw Holding on Abandonment under MPEP 711.03(c), paragraph I, and 37 CFR 1.181(a).

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Claims 1-47 are pending in the present application. Claims 11-19, 22-25, 27-33, 35-44, and 47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Acres (U.S. Patent No. 6,312,333). Claims 1, 2, and 4-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,505,461) in view of Acres (U.S. Patent

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No. 6,312,333). Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Bell et al., and further in view of Bergeron et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,882,473) and Pease et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,326,104). Claims 20, 21, 26, 34, 45, and 46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Acres (U.S. Patent No. 6,312,333), and further in view of Bergeron et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,882,473) and Pease et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,326,104).

Claims 1, 11, 23, 24, 29, and 36 have been amended. No claims have been canceled. No new claims have been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims which have been amended in accordance with the Appellate Board's decision. Applicants respectfully contend that the differences between the claimed invention and the cited references are such that the claimed invention is patentably distinct over the cited references.